

Application Serial No. 09/768398
Examiner: K. McDermott
Art Unit: 3635

PATENT
M&G No. 09538.0021US01

In the Claims

Please amend the claims as follows. No new matter has been added.

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1. (Currently Amended) A utility line support structure comprising:
a hollow fiber reinforced beam having a transverse hole extending therethrough; and
a hollow reinforcing member placed in an interior of the beam to coincide with the
transverse hole, the reinforcing member having a first surface defining an inner diameter that is
approximately the same as a diameter of the transverse hole and a second surface defining an
outer diameter that is greater than said transverse hole diameter, the first and second surfaces
both being disposed within the beam;
wherein the reinforcing member is positioned within the beam such that a bolt can be
inserted through both the beam itself and the reinforcing member.

2. (Original) The utility line support structure of claim 1, wherein the reinforcing member
has a length sufficient to fit within a first interior wall and a second, opposing, interior wall
within the beam.

3. (Original) The utility line support structure of claim 1, wherein the reinforcing member
is placed within the beam after the beam has been formed, the reinforcing member being slid into
an open end of the beam and positioned in alignment with the transverse hole.

4. (Original) The utility line support structure of claim 1, wherein the inner diameter of
the reinforcing member is less than or equal to about 2.5 centimeters.

5. (Original) The utility line support structure of claim 4, wherein the outer diameter of
the reinforcing member is greater than about 2.5 centimeters and is less than about 5 centimeters.

6. (Original) The utility line support structure of claim 1, wherein the reinforcing member
is selected from the group consisting of metal, plastic and a fiber reinforced composite material.

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7. (Original) The utility line support structure of claim 1, wherein the reinforcing member comprises a fiber reinforced resin.

8. (Original) The utility line support structure of claim 7, wherein the resin is reinforced with glass or other non-electrically conducting fiber.

9. (Currently Amended) The utility line support structure of claim 7, wherein the resin comprises polyester or epoxy resin.

10. (Currently Amended) The utility line support structure of claim 1, wherein the reinforcing member is held in place with an adhesive forming a water tight seal between the reinforcing member and the beam.

11. (Currently Amended) The utility line support structure of claim 1, wherein the reinforcing member is held in place by filling the beam with a foam forming a water tight seal between the reinforcing member and the beam.

12. (Original) The utility line support structure of claim 1, further comprising an end cap.

13. (Original) The utility line support structure of claim 12, wherein the end cap entraps an end of the support structure, thereby providing mechanical support to the support structure and preventing moisture from penetrating into the support structure.

14. (Canceled without prejudice or disclaimer)

15. (Original) The utility line support structure of claim 1, wherein the transverse hole and reinforcing member are used to secure the reinforced beam to a utility pole.

16. (Original) The utility line support structure of claim 1, wherein the transverse hole and reinforcing member are used to secure an insulator to the reinforced beam.

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17. (Original) The utility line support structure of claim 1, wherein the reinforced beam has a rectangular cross-section having a first axis and a second axis, with a first reinforcing member along the first axis mounting the beam to a utility pole and a second reinforcing member along the second axis mounting an insulator.

Claims 18-23 (Canceled without prejudice or disclaimer)

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24. (New) A utility line support structure comprising:
a hollow fiber reinforced beam having a transverse hole extending therethrough; and
a hollow reinforcing member placed in an interior of the beam to coincide with the transverse hole, the reinforcing member having an inner diameter that is approximately the same as a diameter of the transverse hole and an outer diameter that is greater than said transverse hole diameter;

wherein the reinforcing member is positioned within the beam such that a bolt can be inserted through both the beam and the reinforcing member and the reinforcing member is held in place by filling the beam with a foam.